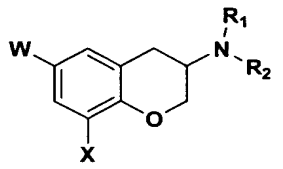
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of formula (I):



I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof wherein:

W is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, alkyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, or heteroaryl;

R^1 is alkyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aralkyl, heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl;

R^2 is SO_2R^3, $SO_2NR^4R^5$, $C(=O)NR^6R^7$, or $C(=O)R^8$;

X is NR^9R^{10} or $CR^{11}R^{12}R^{13}$;

R^3 is alkyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl or heteroaryl;

R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10} and R^{14} are each, independently, hydrogen, alkyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, acyl, aryl, heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl, wherein optionally R^4 and R^5 together, R^6 and R^7 together, or R^9 and R^{10} together form a heterocycle incorporating the nitrogen atom;

R^{11}, R^{12} and R^{13} are independently, hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl or OR^{14}, wherein R^{11} and R^{12} together optionally form a cycloalkyl attached in a spiro fashion, or a heterocylcoalkyl attached in a spiro fashion, or a carbonyl group (C=O).

2. The compound according to Claim 1 wherein W is CN and R^1 is arylalkyl or heteroaryl.

3. The compound according to claim 1 wherein R^1 is a benzyl or thiophenyl.

4. The compound according to Claim 1 wherein X is $-NR^9R^{10}$ and R^9 is H, alkyl, aralkyl or acyl and R^{10} is heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl.

5. The compound according to Claim 4 wherein R^9 is H, methyl, benzyl or -C(O)Me.

6. The compound according to Claim 4 wherein R^{10} is imidazolyl.

7. The compound according to Claim 1 wherein X = $CR^{11}CR^{12}R^{13}$ and R^{11} = H or OH; R^{12} = -OH, -OMe, =O, or substituted phenyl; and R^{13} = substituted imidazolyl.

8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

9. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 8 further comprising at least one additional anticancer agent.

10. A compound according to Claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

N-Benzyl-N-[6-cyano-8-(3H-imidazol-4-ylamino)-chroman-3-yl]-methanesulfonamide;

N-[3-(Benzyl methanesulfonylamino)-6-cyanochroman-8-yl]-N-(3H-imidazol-4-yl)acetamide;

N-Benzyl-N-{6-cyano-8-[(3H-imidazol-4-yl)-methyl-amino]-chroman-3-yl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-Benzyl-N-{8-[benzyl-(3H-imidazol-4-yl)-amino]-6-cyano-chroman-3-yl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-Benzyl-N-{6-cyano-8-[hydroxy-(3-methyl-3H-imidazol-4-yl)-methyl]-chroman-3-yl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-Benzyl-N-{6-cyano-8-[methoxy-(3-methyl-3H-imidazol-4-yl)-methyl]-chroman-3-yl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-Benzyl-N-[6-cyano-8-(3-methyl-3H-imidazole-4-carbonyl)-chroman-3-yl]-methanesulfonamide;

N-Benzyl-N-{8-[(4-chloro-phenyl)-hydroxy-(3-methyl-3H-imidazol-4-yl)-methyl]-6-cyano-chroman-3-yl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-Benzyl-N-{6-cyano-8-[methyl-(3-methyl-3H-imidazol-4-ylmethyl)-amino]-chroman-3-yl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-Benzyl-N-{6-cyano-8-[methyl-(3-methyl-3H-imidazol-4-ylmethyl)-amino]-chroman-3-yl}-methanesulfonamide

N-{6-Cyano-8-[(pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amino]-chroman-3-yl}-N-thiophen-3-ylmethyl-methanesulfonamide;

N-[6-Cyano-8-(methyl-pyridin-4-ylmethyl-amino)-chroman-3-yl]-N-thiophen-3-ylmethyl-methanesulfonamide;

N-{6-Cyano-8-[(pyridin-3-ylmethyl)-amino]-chroman-3-yl}-N-thiophen-3-ylmethyl-methanesulfonamide;

N-[6-Cyano-8-(methyl-pyridin-3-ylmethyl-amino)-chroman-3-yl]-N-thiophen-3-ylmethyl-methanesulfonamide; and

N-{6-Cyano-8-[(3H-imidazol-4-ylmethyl)-amino]-chroman-3-yl}-N-thiophen-3-ylmethyl-methanesulfonamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. A method of inhibiting farnesyl protein transferase which comprises administering to a mammalian subject in need thereof a compound of formula I in an amount effective to inhibit farnesyl transferase.

12. A method of inhibiting tumors in a mammal which comprises administering to a mammalian subject in need thereof an effective tumor inhibiting amount of a compound of Claim 1.

13. The method of Claim 12 further comprising administering to said mammal at least one other anticancer agent.

14. A method of treating cancer comprising administering to a mammalian subject in need thereof a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1.